BOROUGH OF SUDBURY



in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

including the Report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1966

 Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2018 with funding from Wellcome Library To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Sudbury Borough Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Services for the year, 1966.

The population increase for the year was 80 persons. There were 113 births (15 fewer than in 1965), and 121 deaths. There were 4 deaths under 1 year of age; two under 35 years; 18 under 65 years and 97 over the age of 65 years.

The illegitimate birth rate this year was 4.4%, which was a considerable improvement on 1965.

My thanks are due to the Mayor, Councillor S.W. Wood, and all members of the Council, to Alderman H. Talbot the Chairman and to the members of the Drainage and Health Committee for their help to me during the year. I am grateful to Mr. G.C. Mountstephen, the Town Clerk, Mr. R.F. Coldham, the Public Health Inspector and all other officers of the Council staff for their consideration to me at all times.

Your obedient servant,

The od'

Medical Officer of Health.

MEMBERS OF THE DRAINAGE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor S.W. Wood, J.P., (Mayor)

Alderman H. Talbot. (Chairman)

Alderman C.E. Grimwood, J.P.,

Councillor E.A. Essex.

Councillor N.C. McLeod.

Councillor Mrs. K.M. Hitchcock.

Councillor H.B. Eady,

Councillor D.E. Robinson.

STAFF.

Dr. E. Kinnear, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health.

(This officer does not engage in private practice but holds in addition the following appointments:

Medical Officer of Health - Hadleigh U.D.C., Melford R.D.C.,

Cosford R.D.C., Thedwastre R.D.C. Assistant County Medical

Officer, School Medical Officer West Suffolk County Council,)

Mr. R.F. Coldham, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. Public Health Inspector.

Miss. J. Griggs, Clerical Assistant and Shorthand Typist.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

(Figures in brackets throughout the report relate to the year 1965)

Population.	1966	1965
Registrar-General's Estimate.	6,960	(6,880)
Rateable Value as at 1st April.	£255,625	(£247,362)
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate. (1966/67)	.£1,050	(£996)
Area, in Acres.	1,925	(1,925)

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

	m ı a	24. 3	T1 3
	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.	108 (114)	52 (54)	56 (60)
Illegitimate.	5 (14)	3 (4)	2 (10)
	and the second s	destina constitue della Chimana della Chiman	-
	113 (128)	55 (58)	58 (70)
			guide-stangesstandesstand
Adjusted Live Birth Rate per (Area Comparability F		d population	18.8 (21.5
England & Wales Birth Rate p	er 1,000 estima	ted population	17.7 (18.0)
Still Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.	2 (1)	1 (0)	1 (1)
Illegitimate,	- (0)	- (0)	- (0)
		ga-ab-araba-ga-amayahariggang	
	2 (1)	1 (0)	1 (1)

Deaths Registered in 1966.

Total.	Male.	Fer	male.	
121 (136)	60 (56)	61	(80)	
Death Rate (adjusted) (Area Comparability Factor	0.51 (0.42)		8.8	(8.3)

England & Wales, Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population. 11.7 (11.5)

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth, Nil.

Infant Mortality.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
under one year, legitimate.	4 (5)	- (3) (-)	4 (2)
	4 (5)	- (3)	4 (2)
	-		

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births. 35.3 (39.0)

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births, England & Wales. 19.0

Neo-Natal Mortality.				
		Total.	Male.	Female
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks,	legitimate.	3 (3)	- (2)	3 (1)
	illegitimate.	(-)	- ()	- (-)
		3 (3)	- (2)	3 (1)
,				

Early Neo-Natal Mortality.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths of infants under 1 week, legitimate	e. 3 (3)	- (2)	3 (1)
illegitima	te - (-)	- (-)	- (-)
		Separate deficiency on	-
	3 (3)	- (2)	3 (1)
	-		

The above statistics relate to the deaths of four infants and two stillborn infants as follows:-

Sex.	Age.	Cause of death.
F	2 hrs.	Multiple Congenital abnormalities.
·F	10 hrs.	Cerebral haemorrhage.
F	1 month.	Broncho-pneumonia.

Stillbirths.

F	at term.	Intracranial haemorrhage.
M	32 weeks.	Anoxia, accidental haemorrhage.
	(One infant deat	h untraced in my records)

Perinatal Mortality Rate.

(Stillbirths & deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live & stillbirths.) 43.4 (31.0)

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1966.

(Registrar-General's Figures)

-				
	ALL CAUSES.	Total.	Male.	Fei
		121 (136)	60 (56)	61
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	- (1)	- (1)	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other.	- (-)	- (-)	_
3.	Syphilitic disease.	- (-)	- (-)	
4.	Diphtheria.	- (-)	- (-)	-
5.	Whooping Cough.	- (-)	- (-)	
6.	Meningococcal infections.	- (-)	- (-)	(
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	- (-)	- (-)	(
8.	Measles.	- (-)	- (-)	(
9.	Other infective and Parastic Diseases.	- (-)	- (-)	- (
10.	Malignant neoplasm (stomach)	2 (1)	1 (1)	1 (
11.	Malignant neoplasm (lung and bronchus)	7 (3)	6 (3)	1 (
12.	Malignant neoplasm (breast)	1 (2)	- (-)	1 (
13.	Malignant neoplasm (uterus)	1 (-)		1 (
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	9 (8)	7 (3)	2 (
15.	Leukeamia, aleukeamia.	- (-)	- (-)	- (
16.	Diabetes.	1 (2)	1 (-)	- (
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	43 (44)	16 (15)	27 (
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	18 (17)	10 (9)	8 (

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1966.

Continued.

PREVENTION OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

		Cases Notifie	<u>d.</u>
Diseases.	Total.	Male.	Female
Notifications received.	109 (134)	50 (59)	59 (75)
Scarlet Fever.	3 (11)	- (5)	3 (6)
Whooping Cough,	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Measles.	77 (103)	38 (44)	39 (59)
Acute Pneumonia.	25 (12)	12 (6)	13 (6)
Acute Encephalitis.	- (1)	- (1)	- (-)
Erysipelas.	2 (1)	→ (1)	2 (-)
Food Poisoning.	- (2)	- (2)	- (-)
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2 (3)	- (-)	2 (3)
Infectious Hepatitis.	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)

Tuberculosis - New cases notified during 1966.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Pulmonary.	1 (1)	1 (1)	- (-)
Non-pulmonary.	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
	2 (1)	1 (1)	1 (~)

Infant Welfare Centres.

The West Suffolk County Council provide one centre in the town.

A Clinic is held weekly at the Youth Club premises, Stour Street, on Thursdays at 2 p.m. Welfare foods are also distributed from this centre.

Two health visitors attend. A Medical Officer also attends on the 1st and 3rd Thursday in the month.

(From April, 1967. This clinic has been changed to Tuesdays at the Health Clinic, Acton Lane.)

Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road East, Ipswich, under the directorship of Dr. J.M.S. Dixon, is always generous with advice and services.

Messrs. Lincolne, Sutton & Wood, Limited, Norwich, provide analytical reports on water and foods.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47 - Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Protection.

No proceedings were taken under Section 47 during 1966.

Hospitals.

St. Leonards.

General practitioner staffed hospital, with visiting consultants and Out Patients clinics, maternity, general medical, minor surgical, some geriatric patients. Some casualty facilities but no resident medical officer. The main casualty facilities are at West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, 18 miles distant.

Walnutree.

The majority of these beds are geriatric. There is a physiotherapy department with some specialised equipment. Psychiatr and opthalmic Out Patients clinics are held. The County Welfare Officer for the area is also in attendance when pyschiatric clinics are held. The health visitor attends the hospital when the Geriatric Specialist holds his rounds.

There is a training scheme for State Enrolled nurses.

Walnutree Hospital has a pathology department which is of considerable help to general practitioners and both hospitals.

Family Planning Clinics, are held, in the Out Patients' Department of Walnutree Hospital, as follows:-

1st and 3rd Thursday - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. 2nd and 4th Thursday - 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

A, J. Gould A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.,

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Sudbury Borough Council.

I submit for your consideration my report for the year ended 31st December, 1966.

This covers a period before I took up this appointment when Mr. R.F. Coldham was your Public Health Inspector. I must record my appreciation for the support I have received from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, and from Dr. E. Kinnear, Medical Officer of Health, and to the other Officers of the Council for their co-operation in constructing this report, and to my own staff for their help, interest, and loyal support.

HOUSING

NEW HOUSES - COUNCIL.

During 1966 the contracts for construction of 64 houses on Woodhall "E" site were nearing completion.

The 32 industrialised houses were complete and occupied and it is noted that tenants generally were pleased with the houses and that the gas hot air heating systems were efficient and economic in operation.

The 32 traditional houses were also well advanced at the end of 1966.

It is noted that a scheme is proposed for Cats Lane for old persons, that will include Warden's accommodation. It is felt that more accommodation of this kind will be necessary covering independent units and also semi-communal units with Warden accommodation. Possibly, by acquisition of suitable land or by acquisition of condemned property and subsequent demolition, the Council will be able to provide these balanced, old person, units nearer to the town centre.

NEW HOUSES - PRIVATE.

During the year the rate of private building tended to slow down. This was probably due in the main to Government restrictions. There are still however, a number of private estates being developed, giving a wide price range of well-built houses.

OLD HOUSES.

Progress in dealing with sub-standard housing during the year is listed:

Type of Action.	1966.	Total since 1955.
CLEARANCE AREAS.		
Number of Clearance Areas declared.	-	17
Total number of properties involved	-	226
Properties excluded from orders.	•	6

Tupe of Action.	1966	Total since 1955
DEMOLITION ORDERS.		
Properties demolished under Demolition Order.	1	7
CLOSING ORDERS.		
Properties subject to Closing Orders.	4	57
REHOUSING.		
Number of families rehoused by Council.	69	233
Number of persons rehoused by Council.	170	589

The average number of families rehoused per year in the ten year 1955 - 1966 was 23, and the average number of persons per year was 59.

GENERAL.

During the year twelve properties were repaired following service of written informal notices.

Many other minor repairs were attended to after an informal visit or telephone call to the owner.

At the end of 1966 the number of applicants on the Council's Housing List was 220. This was an increase of 36 on the number on the list at end of 1965.

65 new tenancies were granted during the year

72 new registrations were accepted during the year.

Numerous reports were made on the accommodation occupied by applicants.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

No certificates were issued during the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Steady progress was made with housing improvement during the year. There was a marked reduction in the amount paid under discretionary grants, but standard grant payments continued at a good rate.

This is probably because an applicant finds the requirements for a discretionary grant rather difficult or onerous and prefers usually to apply for a standard grant.

Towards the end of 1966 the publication of "Our Older Houses, etc"., seemed to indicate that the range of standard grants may be extended, the grants made easier to obtain in some cases, and improvement by such grants very much encouraged. Powers to compel owners to improve houses with standard grants are possible.

Details of grants made in each year since 1959 are:-

Standard Grants.

Year	No. of Applications	No. Completed.	Gran	ts Pa	id.
			€.	S•	d.
1959	4			11,	
1960	7	8	796	6	3
1961	11	. 4	560	0	0
1962	16	. 13	1,551	4	11
1963	16	9	1,208	l	4
1964	7	12	1,597	7	8
1965	10	4	498	3	7
1966	9	10	1,458	6	10
			((-		
			£7,669	10	7
	1				

Discretionary Grants.

Year.	No. of Applications.	No. Completed	Grants Paid.
			£. s. d.
1959	22	8	1,618. 14. 3
1960	10	12	2,247. 4. 6
1961	10	9	1,948. 5. 9
1962	10	12	2,357. 14. 5
1963	5	7	1,443. 0. 0
1964	6	3	746. 19. 9
1965	1	2	648.10.0
1966	2	1	197. 10. 3
			£11,207. 18. 11

ANNUAL POST WAR DEVELOPMENT RATE.

The following are the post war housing development figure for the years 1947 to 1966.

Year	Council Houses.	Private Dwellings.	Total.	Year.	Council Houses.	Private Dwellings.	Total.
		Brou	ight Forw	ard:	256	119	375
1947	24	6	30	1957	46	11	57
1948	27	12	39	1958	0	22	22
1949	30	2	32	1959	26	11	37
1950	26	8	34	1960	50	14	64
1951	18	5	23	1961	22	27	49
1952	30	6	36	1962	10	58	68
1953	29	14	43	1963	36	41	77
1954	62	18	80	1964	42	109	151
1955	10	20	30	1965	-	88	88
1956	0	28	28	1966	68	51	119
Total	• 256	119	375	Total	. 556	551	1,107

HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

The following visits for inspection or re-inspection have been made:

Improvement Grants.	92
Individual Unfit.	24
Clearance.	38
Rent Act.	1
Other.	24

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The weekly collection of household refuse continued during the year. At the end of 1966 the tip in Middleton Road was closed and the new tip commenced in Sandy Lane.

This new tip, which is also used by Melford R.D.C. and occasionally by Halstead R.D.C. comes partly within Essex and will be closely supervise by officers of the Essex County Council. Controlled tipping will have to be used. This will mean the purchase of more effective machinery for tip control.

The collection of Trade Refuse continues to be fairly sporadic. Your officers are preparing a report on the collection of Trade Refuse. It is evident however that more frequent collections are necessary, particularly from food shops, to avoid heaps of putrescible refuse being left for lengths of time before collection. Thought will also have to be given to the manner and the containers in which shops keep their refuse This is particularly so in view of our rat problem referred to later.

Nuisances from flies, wasps or other insects at our tips are dealt with by spraying as required.

The provision of paper sacks instead of dust bins has continued during the year although at a rather slow pace. It is hoped that it will be possible to give more time and attention to this in forthcoming years. At present I understand that the full provision of paper sacks apart from the demands upon our labour force in fixing the holders, would need more vehicle space than we have available. Similarly any increase in frequency of trade refuse collection would bring the same problem. To deal with ther we will have to face up to increasing our vehicles and men allocated to refuse collection.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The majority of the Borough drains, via pumping stations, to the main pumping station at Ballingdon Depot, from which it is pumped to the sewerage works.

The works have screens, detritus tanks, storm tanks, sedimentation tanks, biological filters and humus tanks and sludge beds. These work efficiently and are properly maintained.

The River Authority regularly sample at the effluent outfall with completely satisfactory results on nearly all occasions.

There are still a small number of properties not connerted to the main sewerage system. This is usually for geographical or practical reasons.

It is hoped that the proposed Brundon sewerage scheme, consisting of a gravity sewer, a pumping station and well, and a rising main which crosses under the bed of the River Stour, may serve some 10 of these properties. This scheme at end of 1966, was awaiting Ministry approval.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year the West Suffolk Water Board maintained an adequate supply of water. Regular samples were taken. Chemical samples are taken at the water source every six months, by the West Suffolk Water Board. These were satisfactory. In addition the Water Board take fortnightly samples of water, treated and untreated at source and weekly samples at points on the distribution mains. These were all satisfactory.

The water is of considerable hardness both temporary and permanent and gives rise to a very great amount of "furring" in domestic hot water systems.

SWIMMING POOL.

The swimming pool was open again from 12th May to 24th September.

Water is supplied to the pool from the public mains. The water is treated by pressure filtration and break point chlorination. The flow is so regulated that all the water passes through the plant every five hours.

Routine residual chlorine and pH. tests are made at the pool, and samples taken for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory at Ipswich. All the tests showed the water to be of a satisfactory degree of purity.

There were admissions to the pool during 1966 as follows:

Normal admissions.	23,358
Season ticket users.	12,700
School bathers.	6,600
	42,658

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The Public Conveniences in Burkitts Lane have been in use throughtout the year.

A certain amount of vandalism persisted throughout the year, and constant effort was needed by the Borough Surveyor's Department to keep clean and usable the facilities provided and to minimise the damage being done.

Two other public conveniences are maintained, one in Goal Lane, and one at the rear of the swimming pool in Belle Vue Gardens.

BISINFESTATION.

Disinfestation by spraying of two premises was carried out during the year.

WASPS NESTS.

During the year 25 wasps! nests were destroyed by the Rodent Operator.

RODENT CONTROL.

During 1966 this area, on common with the rest of the country, has suffered an increase in rat population and in the amount of damage and nuisance generally from rodents.

The problem has been acute everywhere but it is particularly so in East Anglia. It is probably due to a variety of factors over which we have no control. A succession of mild or late winters can extend the breeding times. A developing immunity to some of the poisons used and even an affluent society throwing more food away.

A very great effort is being made to control the present infestation and to actively reduce them. It is hoped this will be possible with present staff although it is as well to point out that only 75% of one man's time is devoted to rodent control.

PRIVATE DWELLINGS.

On receipt of complaint of infestation, premises were visited and treatment given free of charge.

BUSINESS PREMISES.

Business premises were treated under agreement when found to be infested. Treatment charges remained at 7/6d per hour.

AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES.

The agricultural properties were surveyed periodically and treatment carried out where necessary, charged on a time and material basis.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the Borough.

INSPECTIONS

The following visits for inspections or reinspection under various Acts have been made:-

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Dwelling Houses.	101
Offensive Accumulations.	11
Dust and Effluvia.	7
Ditches and Watercourses.	10
Tents, Vans & Sheds.	1
Drains and Sewers.	150
Closets.	2
Dustbins.	3
Inns, Restaurants, Cinemas.	10
Verminous Premises.	8
Infectious Diseases.	2
Petroleum Licences.	33
Water Supply.	5
Swimming Pool.	41
Noise.	1
Sewage Works.	4
Home Safety.	16
Refuse Tips.	35
Cattle Market.	19
Public Conveniences.	1
Explosives.	4

CLEAN AIR ACTS 1956.

Industrial Premises.	6
Domestic Premises.	12
Miscellaneous.	9

PET	ANIMALS	ACT	1951

2

CARAVAN SITES ACT 1960

2

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

Rodents - Domestic Premises.	14
Rodents - Business Premises.	16
Rodents - Farms.	5
Insects.	8
Miscellaneous.	77
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders etc.	63

FOOD

FOOD CONTROL.

Inspection of food premises continued. Many small improvements were carried out after informal notice. These contribute in time to a general small improvement in standards at all shops.

In only one case of an unsatisfactory food premises was it necessary to take legal action.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following foodstuffs were examined at wholesale and retail food shops and certificates given when they were voluntarily surrendered.

Canned Foods.		1966	
Fruits.		14	
Meat Products.		39	
	Total.	53 tins	•

ICE CREAM.

Thirty premises were registered for the sale of icc cream. Ice Cream sold at these premises was one of the nationally known products, all being wrapped.

PRESERVED FOODS.

Seventeen premises were registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed pickled or preserved foods.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The licencing of dealers in Sudbury for the sale of designated milks is the responsibility of the West Suffolk County Council.

During the year there were within the Borough 12 registered distributors of milk.

Designated licences in force as at 31st December, 1966 were as follows:-

Dealers Tuberculin Tested.	6
Dealers Pasteurised.	7
Dealers Sterilized.	8

Sampling of the milk was carried out by the Weights and Measures Department of the County Council on behalf of the Health Department. Copies of sample reports received indicated that these were satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

FOOD PREMISES.

The total number of premises in the Borough concerned with the manufacture preparation, storage or sale of food is 121

These can be classified as follows:-

Cafes and Restaurants.	8
Bakehouses.	3
Cake Shops.	5

Food Premises (Cont'd)

Confectioners.				
Greengrocers.	5			
Grocers and General Stores.	26			
Butchers.	8			
Fishmongers.	5			
Public Houses.	20			
Hotels.	- 4			
Guest Houses.	1			
Wine Merchants.	3			
Clubs.	4			
Canteens.	9			
Packers and Processors.	4			
Wholesalers.	4			

In addition to the above, markets are held on the Market Hill. A fishmonger, grocer, greengrocers and confectioner attend regularly on Thursdays and Saturdays.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

The following visits for inspection or reinspection were made:-

Hygiene Regulations/Byelaws - Shops	48
Hygiene Regulations/Byelaws - Stalls and Vehicles.	68
Hygiene Regulations/Byelaws Personal Hygiene.	5
İce Créam Premises.	5
Food Inspection - Other.	14

SHOPS ACT

Inspection of shop premises during the year indicated that in the main the basic requirements of the Shops Act were met.

In addition to the 121 premises listed earlier as food premises there are a further 120 premises that could be classified as shops under the meaning of the Shops Act, 1950.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

At the end of the year there were registered:-

Offices. 69
Retail Shops. 124
Wholesale Shops,
Warehouses. 8
Catering establishments
open to the public, canteens 11
Fuel Storage depots. 2

Many visits were made to these premises to ensure that the provisions of the Act were enforced and after service of informal notices many defects were remedied.

The following visits were made under the above Act .. 48

FACTORIES ACT

Details of the inspections under the Factories Acts are recorded below.

The number of factories on the register totalled 70.

1. Inspections for Purpose of Provisions as to Health. (including inspections by the Public Health Inspector.)

			Number of.		
		No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1)	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	3	1		
(2)	Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	62	12		
(3)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the				
	Local Authority. (excluding out- workers premises.)	5	4		
	Total.	70	17		

2. Cases in which Defects were found. - Nil

Outwork - Sections 133 and 134.

		Se	ection 133		Section	134	
Nature of Work.	in lis req by	workers August	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of Instances of work in unwhole- some premises.	Served.	Prosecut
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel.		12	_	-	pers	•••	~
Making et cleaning and washing.	c.	2	-	-	-	-	-
Curtain and furniture hangings.		1	-	-	-		-
Total	•	15	-	-	-	-	-

1. 17

